

Accident Investigation: Lube Pump Accident November 10, 2001

A mechanic was injured while cleaning a Graco chassis lube pump being used by another mechanic to lubricate a haul truck parked in the shop. The victim had removed the two plates that guard the pneumatically driven piston in order to clean built-up grease. As he cleaned the piston, the other mechanic triggered the grease gun to lubricate chassis parts at the rear of the Komatsu haul truck. The victim's left index finger was caught between the moving piston and the pump housing sustaining an avulsion wound which required surgery at the hospital.



Lube points on the Komatsu haul truck with the Graco chassis pump out of sight in the background.



The Graco pneumatically powered grease dispenser pump without required guards (cover plates) in place.



Without protective cover.



With protective cover.

RECOMMENDATION: Always de-energize the pump by disconnecting the air hose prior to removing protective cover plates when performing repair or maintenance work as required by DMM safety regulation 4VAC25-40-350.